

Torrance, California  
August 25, 1953

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, August 25, 1953, Mayor Schwab presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were:  
COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. ABSENT: COUNCIL-  
MEN: Blount. Also present was City Attorney Hall.

Councilman Benstead led the salute to our Flag.

Rev. Taylor of the First Methodist Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11 and of the Adjourned Regular Meeting of August 12, 1953, be approved as written.

City Attorney Hall asked that the Minutes of August 11, hearing on Tracts No. 19305 and 19306, be corrected to reflect the rejection by the City Council of Tract Maps No. 19305 and 19306.

Councilman Drale so moved. Councilman Spelman seconded the motion which carried.

City Attorney Hall also informed the Council that in connection with the hearing held on August 11, 1953, "We have been granted a two-weeks continuance in which to file findings of fact in connection with that hearing." This he asked to be made a matter of record.

Mayor Schwab announced this is the time and place for the opening of bids for a truck chassis and cab for load packer.

Clerk Bartlett opened and read the following bids:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Olympic Truck & Equipment	\$3738.55
GMC Truck & Coach Division	3626.60
International Harvester Company	3497.98
Schultz & Peckham	4499.85
Reo Motor, Inc.	4050.05
Joe Gill Motor Company	Bid #1 - 4887.86
	Bid #2 5986.36
General Truck Sales, Inc.	3945.00

Councilman Spelman moved these bids be referred to the City Manager for his recommendation at the next Regular Meeting, and that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

Mayor Schwab announced this is the time and place for the third and final hearing of Planning Commission Case No. 266, Change of Zone initiated by the Torrance Planning Commission on property bounded on the North by a line fifty feet north of Maricopa Street, on the East by Maple Avenue, on the South by Torrance Boulevard and on the West by Madrona Avenue, to A-1 (Light Agricultural) Zone.

Mayor Schwab called for oral protests.

Mr. C. J. Doherty, Vice President of Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company, addressed the Council saying he had written a letter to the City Clerk with reference to the matter which has already been passed on by the Planning Commission, and that the only additional remark he wished to make is this, "We are not going to try to put over a fast one by the sale of the property that is involved, but we had understood from the City Manager that the 27-acre parcel was looked upon favorably by the City Council as a future Civic Center site; it may so happen during the intervening time a more suitable site might be found, possibly not. We are endeavoring to work out an engineering program with the City Engineer and City Manager for that stretch of property running up on Maple Avenue, a distance of some 3,000 feet, and we would like to see the zoning remain in the classification of M-2 where it was placed originally, rather than to change the zoning now, and in view of the railroad trackage available, the property could be used for industrial development."

City Clerk Bartlett then read a communication from Mr. C. J. Doherty of C.C.M.O. advising that progress had been made on the engineering work but no definite conclusion has been reached as to what may be finally adopted for the future development of the area in the vicinity of the property in question; and reiterating his position as stated in his letter of June 18, and requesting the Council to postpone taking any definite action at this time.

City Clerk Bartlett read a note from Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Moody approving the Change of Zone in Case No. 266.

Councilman Drale asked for the Planning Commission's recommendation, and City Clerk Bartlett read from Transmittal for Change of Zone which states that two public hearings had been held before the Planning Commission on July 1 and July 15, 1953; that newspaper notice was published July 18; that 124 persons were notified; that the Planning Commission expressed approval; that there were no protests; and that Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company asked that this rezoning be postponed.

Councilman Drale moved the hearing be declared closed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Letter from Milan Z. Drale for a complete zoning study for multiple residence in North Torrance, and requesting that an R-3 zoning study for North Torrance be made by the Planning Commission.

Councilman Spelman moved the letter be referred to the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by those present.

Letter from Bradley & Gregory, attorneys at law, claiming damages in the amount of \$1152.91 to motor vehicle owned by Vasilli Partnoff, caused by accident with a city bus at El Segundo and Crenshaw Boulevards on May 21, 1953.

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At 8:20 Councilman Blount took his place at the Council table.

Councilman Drale moved the claim be referred to the City Attorney and our insurance carrier. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Communication from the Metropolitan Water District transmitting certified copy of Resolution No. 4294, levying a tax rate of 25¢ for the fiscal year 1953-1954, last year's rate being 28¢.

Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Communication from Los Angeles County Auditor setting forth the assessed valuation of Tax District No. 1 and Tax District No. 2 as \$65,241,620.00.

Councilman Benstead moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Request from Federal Home Improvement Company, 9029 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles 35, for a refund of \$4.00 on Building Permit No. 22786. The request was approved by Building Inspector Dresser.

Councilman Spelman moved the refund be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Petition, signed by twenty-four (24) property owners, requesting sewer, curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements on Yukon Avenue, North Torrance.

Councilman Drale moved the petition be referred to the City Engineer, and that whoever presented or circulated the petition contact the City Engineer for information on how to complete the program. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Letter from J. C. Hedgecock, 16730 Yukon Avenue, Torrance, taking issue with statements made by his neighbors who object to a Change of Zoning on Yukon Avenue; requesting the City Council to set aside the Planning Commission's decision on Case No. 265; and that this zoning matter be given more study.

At the suggestion of Councilman Drale, Mayor Schwab set September 8, 1953, as the date for hearing of Case No. 265.

Councilman Drale moved that Mr. Hedgecock's communication be referred to the hearing on September 8. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Letter from Thomas H. Block of Torrance Sand and Gravel Products relative to an agreement on relocation of their present water reservoir, and requesting permission to present the matter at this meeting.

After some discussion, Councilman Benstead moved this letter be referred to the next Agenda Meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Letter from M. D. Shepherd, Realtor, requesting, on behalf of purchasers of Tract 9306, that the City put in and complete the streets and alleys as shown on the map, and inquiring when the work would be started and completed.

Councilman Blount explained that this was an old subdivision in North Torrance, and he moved the communication be not acted on until after the next Agenda Meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Letter addressed to City Attorney Hall, from Bollenbacher & Kelton, Inc., representing Allied Contractors, Inc., developers of Tracts 17330, 17920 and 17921, regarding settlement of claim for charge for the connector main installed on Palos Verdes Parkway from Sepulveda Boulevard to Linda Drive.

After some discussion, Councilman Drale moved the letter be referred to the City Attorney and Water Superintendent, Mr. McVicar, for study and recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Spelman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Frank Huff be temporarily employed as a Bus Attendant for a period of three weeks, effective August 17, 1953, in the first salary step.
2. That Helen M. Herman be appointed to serve her probationary period as Police Matron and File Clerk, effective August 16, 1953, at the first salary step.

Councilman Blount moved to approve the recommendations under Items 1 and 2. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. That \$5,880 be appropriated for a Special Census, based on an estimated population of 40,000, the amount to be finally determined by the actual population count.
2. That a 45-passenger G.M.C. Diesel Bus be ordered at a cost of approximately \$18,000.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendations under "Appropriations." Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

TRAFFIC CONTROL:

That the City Attorney be authorized to prepare the necessary ordinance to establish the following regulatory signs, in accordance with the recommendation of the Traffic Commission:

1. Two-way STOPS: (a) On 222nd Street at Arlington Avenue.  
(b) On Hickory Avenue at Sonoma Street.  
(c) On 171st Street at Ermanita Avenue.
2. Three-way STOP: (a) At Madrona Avenue and Eldorado Street.
3. Four-way STOP: (a) At Mindora Drive and Ellinwood Drive.
4. One-Hour Parking on west side of Border Avenue between Carson Street and 218th Street.

(Insert #1)

Councilman Benstead moved that at the next Agenda Meeting the entire Council meet with the Traffic Commission as there were interesting things he would like to "unravel" with them. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Transmittal Form from the Planning Commission recommending approval of petition initiated by Torrance Planning Commission, Case No. 264, for a Change of Zone from A-1 to M-1, of West side of Western Avenue from 174th to 190th Streets.

Two public hearings having been held by the Planning Commission, Mayor Schwab set September 8, 1953, as the date for the third and final hearing before the City Council.

Transmittal Form from the Planning Commission recommending disapproval of petition initiated by Torrance Planning Commission, Case No. 265, for a Change of Zone from A-1 and R-1 to R-3, Yukon Avenue and 174th Street, and that it will be necessary that the third and final hearing be held before the City Council, which date cannot legally be set before September 8.

Councilman Drale stated that the Transmittal Form shows there are 68 protests, but there are several people who approved the change, which does not appear on the Transmittal Form, and he requested that the Form be corrected to show the number of people approving the change.

Mayor Schwab set September 8, 1953, as the date for the third and final hearing of Case No. 265.

Insert #1: Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation under "Traffic Control". Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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Transmittal Form from the Planning Commission recommending approval of petition of Robert M. Smith, Case No. 269, for a Variance to permit boarding of privately-owned horses (maximum of approximately 30 horses) at 4024 Sepulveda Boulevard, for a period of one year. There were no protests.

After some discussion, Councilman Drale moved the letter be sent back to the Planning Commission for a second hearing. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Transmittal Form from the Planning Commission recommending approval of petition of Allied Contractors for a Variance to permit the establishment of a retail, neighborhood business center, Case No. 270, at the intersection of Sepulveda and Palos Verdes Boulevards, subject to the special condition that the owner dedicate to the City for public road purposes that portion of Palos Verdes and Lomita Boulevards within the described area.

Councilman Drale moved this communication be returned to the Planning Commission for a second hearing before the Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2426

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR  
AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY,  
THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED FROM KATSUYOSHI  
MOTOYASU AND SHIZUKO MOTYASU.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Councilman Drale seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2426. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2427

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE OPENING OF AN ESCROW  
FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO BE  
USED AS A FUTURE PARK AND RECREATIONAL AREA.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2427. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2428

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND  
CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; THAT  
CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED FROM VIOLA E. WRIGHT.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2428. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.



RESOLUTION NO. 2429

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ORDER THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON CERTAIN PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR PUBLIC USE.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2429. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 653

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FIXING THE TAX RATES AND LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1953.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 653 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Clerk Bartlett recommended the purchase of a "Gestetner" Duplicator machine, advising that this machine, together with a new multigraph machine, had been demonstrated, and in his opinion the "Gestetner" machine was more practical. He advised that the cost of the "Gestetner" is \$575.50 and the multigraph is \$1100.00, with the possibility of an allowance of \$75.00 to \$100.00 for the old machine. Mr. Bartlett also said that the City Manager is in favor of the "Gestetner".

Discussion followed, Councilman Spelman suggesting that both the Ditto and Multigraph machines could be eliminated for the new Duplicator, but it was City Clerk Bartlett's opinion that they (the Engineering Department) wished to keep the Ditto machine. The discussion ended by Councilman Spelman saying, "If you can show us where you have a real use for your Ditto machine along with the new Multigraph machine, I will not stand in the way of it, but I would just like to know why this machine might not be able to do both jobs." City Clerk Bartlett replied that he would bring up the matter at the next meeting.

City Clerk Bartlett called attention to the Citation from Governor Warren on the wall complimenting the City of Torrance on the large percentage of votes cast by registered voters at the last General Election, the percentage being over 90% of those registered.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 654

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, ORDINANCE NO. 446.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 654 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Drale advised that the Dominguez Channel in North Torrance is breeding a lot of mosquitos and that he had read where Supervisor Chace is initiating a program to gunite, in some district

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out in Compton, this particular channel, and moved that a letter be directed to the Board of Supervisors suggesting that they gunite the Dominguez Channel from Redondo Beach Boulevard and 174th Street on west. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Councilman Drale moved that the City Attorney be instructed to draw up a resolution stating that the City of Torrance approves Major League baseball on the Pacific Coast, and that the City offer its facilities at the Torrance Park as a training station for a Major League Club; and that copies of the resolution be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors and Vincent X. Flaherty of the Los Angeles Examiner. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Councilman Spelman advised that the office of the City Treasurer, in many instances, is not informed of major expenditures to be made, and it places that office in an embarrassing position, as, on many occasions, Mrs. Leech, City Treasurer, is asked questions about a particular expenditure which she cannot answer, and moved that "the City Manager be directed to advise Mrs. Leech prior to our making major expenditures so that she can be kept informed of just how we are moving during the fiscal year, and that she be invited to make any comments." Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

A letter bearing 18 signatures was presented and read by Mr. Hedgecock, regarding the rezoning of Yukon Avenue.

City Attorney Hall informed Mr. Hedgecock that September 8 had been set for the hearing of this Case No. 265.


Councilman Benstead moved that this letter be introduced at the hearing of September 8. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Mr. Ray McMan asked that he be notified when the second hearing of Case No. 270 will be held before the Planning Commission.


Councilman Blount moved that Mr. McMan be so informed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Councilman Spelman moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:00 p.m., Councilman Benstead moved the meeting be adjourned. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE